22. Tamil as the medium of Education.

Deputy President.—Next resolution is that of Mr. Eachara Menon.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Since tabling this motion. the Director of Public Instruction has been kind enough to circularise that Tamil may be used. So, I don't move.

(*Hence the following resolution was deemed withdrawn:*—"*This Council recommends to the Government that Tamil may be made the medium of Education wherever necessary.*")

23. Supply of drinking water to certain villages.

Deputy President.—Resolution No. 23.

Mr. K. J. Antony.—The motion is: "*This House do recommend to the Government that immediate steps be taken to supply fresh drinking water to the people of Chellanam, Andikadavu, Cheriyakadavu and Manacheri during the summer season.*"

Sir, the people of these places are put to great difficulty for want of good drinking water during the summer season, *i. e.*, during the months of Kumbham, Meenam and Medam. It is not a case of scarcity of water that these people are feeling. It is a case that they have no drinking water at all during the summer season. During the winter season these people manage by catching rain water. During the summer most of the people manage to get water from Kumbalanghi and Pallivirutti and the well-to-do people go to Alwaye with their families and live there for two or three months. Wells and tanks have been dug by the Panchayats to get drinking water, but this experiment has proved a failure because the place being narrow and surrounded by sea water on one side and backwater on the other, they cannot get good water even from the wells and tanks. Therefore, the only solution will be to sink some artesian wells in Pallivirutti or Kumbalanghi and take water to these two places by means of pipes.

Deputy President.—Artificial wells?

Mr. K. J. Antony.—That is in British Cochin.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—It is artesian.

Mr. K. J. Antony.—Or water may be supplied as we are doing in Mattancheri or may be taken in boats and may be distributed to these people.

Mr. V. D. Ouseph.—How were they managing?

Mr. K. J. Antony.—They drink salt water. Well-to-do people can manage there by taking water from Kumbalanghi and Pallivirutti or very many go to Alwaye. It is the poor people that are put to difficulty. Something should be done to relieve these people.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Sir, I rise to second this proposition. It has been discussed and made a Party question, and we feel

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that it is absolutely necessary to do something to provide them with good drinking water. I would, in seconding this resolution, throw out some practical suggestions for the consideration of the Government to solve this problem in an easier manner. It is not possible to take Alwaye water there by means of pipes. The best thing will be to provide some iron tanks cemented or something in the locality and catch the rain water and store it somewhere and give it, as was done in British Cochin in the olden days. In several corners of the places huge tanks, ordinary iron tanks have been made. Now you can make even corrugated or galvanised iron tanks.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—What is the idea of the capacity?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—The capacity of the tanks that is put in rural parts is to contain 2 tons of water—in different places, two ton tanks in different corners, each one 4 furlongs apart. It will suffice for people to take water. 2 tons means only 400 gallons of water—very very small tank. You can have many of these things or else you may have a bigger tank with a large area. Only a tank will be required for drinking purposes.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—During rainy weather?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Water you must catch and store. During summer weather something must be done.

I am not a technical expert. I am throwing out different suggestions for giving them water. The population there is very small, not very big, and a large quantity of drinking water will not be required. How much of drinking water will a man require, perhaps two pints a day, not for washing purposes, only for drinking water.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—Would they take only for drinking?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—The proposition is only for drinking water and for cooking purposes even.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—That would not work.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—If it works, let it work. The Government must come to the rescue of the people in the best manner possible by means of any method for drinking water. With these few words, I second.

Mr. V. D. Ouseph.—I support the motion, and in doing so, I have to add one or two words. The suggestion of the Member for Jews is to create a number of artificial tanks. How far it will be practical it is for the Engineer and the Member for Medicine to decide. From the economic point of view it is worthy of consideration whether it will not be better to take the people to other places, say to Alwaye, keep them there for these three

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months and then take them back. I think it will be easier than Mr. Salem's scheme. All these questions are left to the authorities. I whole heartedly support this resolution.

Deputy President.—Provided it is practicable Any other scheme?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—If you don't oppose, you accept.

Mr. M. A. Chakko.—I rise to support this resolution because the constituency which I represent has also the same grievance, and some practical solution of the difficulty which they labour under is necessary. It is not a matter for jocking. It is a matter of life and death, because drinking water and fresh drinking water is necessary for the sustenance of life in a healthy body. (*Hear, hear.*) Then as for the practical solution which the Member for Jews has brought forward, it does not appear altogether practicable to the Member for Public Works. I quite agree with him. We cannot collect rain water in Chellanam and Andikadavu as they do in British Cochin. In British Cochin there are numerous buildings and water from the roofs can be collected in tanks when it rains and can be distributed also easily because people live in a compact and circumscribed area. The practical method of solution of the problem is this. We have plenty of fresh water during the monsoon season. I should say Chellanam and Andikadavu, Cheriakadavu and Manacheri would be complaining of too much of rain water during that season. When once the rains have abated, and water becomes brackish, there is no scarcity of water, but only scarcity of fresh water, potable water. So the solution must be to have reservoirs which are impermeable by the salt of the sea. We must catch and impound the flood water during the rainy season, segregate that water from contamination by the salt of the sea, that will invade the flats during the Thulam and Vrischigam months when there is high tide in the sea and backwater. Therefore, if we get some reinforced concrete reservoir tanks, made deep, broad and long enough to hold a considerable quantity of water that can be impounded and kept without permeation and contamination by the salt water, I think it would be possible during the dry season to pump out water from this reservoir to the places where water is very badly required. So what is necessary is a reservoir to impound and keep the fresh water which is available in large quantities, free from the effects of the contamination of salt during the hot season. About the capacity, that is, the space that would be required to keep sufficient quantity of water to supply the villages, that is a matter of calculation, which must be computed and fixed with due regard to the popupation for whom service has to be done. It would be wise and

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it would be useful if serious attention is paid to this matter, and some effort is made to solve this problem by persons who have got the technical knowledge to find out means of impounding the water and keeping it without being affected by salt water as well as without being diminished to any great extent by percolation from bottom and evaporation from the top. If that can be done, the problem can be solved without great difficulty, and I for one thing that it will not cost a very large sum to do that. In comparison, having regard to the hardship that is caused to the people for want of it, I think that a few thousand rupees spent for a few thousand people will be very well spent. I have nothing to add.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Sir, I really sympathise with the condition of the people of the coastal tracts. It is rather difficult to get fresh water during hot weather. We have opened a number of wells, but in some of these wells, supply becomes short during the hot weather and in some places the water becomes brackish. This difficulty did not come into so much prominence during the past years, and people were having plenty of drinking water during the olden days. But the conditions were quite different in those days. The admixture of a lot of brackish water in a good number of wells is due almost entirely to the fact that in all the adjoining paddy lands people have resorted to prawn culture. Conditions were entirely different years ago when prawns did not bring so much money, and the custom in those villages was after the harvest people used to store all the north-east monsoon water they could collect. Even in the small island of Panambukad where there was no difficulty for good drinking water at one time, there is now no wholesome water, and the complaint of the people was that all the landholders have leased out their wet lands for prawn culture. The problem thus becomes very difficult for solution. It is quite within the reach of the people to retain as much north-east monsoon water in their paddy lands. But they are not doing it. In the coastal tracts if all the north-east monsoon water is retained, there is hardly any difficulty for good drinking water. But conditions have changed and people are growing prawns. Unless there is plenty of storage of fresh water in the paddy lands adjoining the *parambas*, it is not possible to get a supply of adequate drinking water.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Have you made any experiment whether you can get fresh water by tube wells?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Yes. In Narakkal and other places we tried tube wells, but the working of these wells was not found to be very satisfactory. The only method that is left is artesian wells, and probably the Chief Engineer will enlighten

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you on that subject, and as regards storage suggested by the Member for Jews,—

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Never mind about storage, Sir. Have you considered about establishing a distillery by which you can distil the ordinary brackish water? I wanted to know how much you know about these. But not even a suggestion, an idea is mooted there. You simply say difficulties, difficulties. A distillery won't cost much. Brackish water can be easily converted into good water.

Deputy President.—How much will it cost?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—That is what I am asking. Why should we solve all these problems? We suggested to see whether you can make some counter suggestions.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Sir, I am sorry I cannot enlighten this House very much with any kind of solution profitable to the discussion at issue. It has engaged the attention of the Sanitarian, from the beginning they came into contact with this tract of land which is so thickly populated. The question of supplying pure water to the town of British Cochin has been engaging the attention of the British Government for a long time. And as most people are aware, these places stand exactly on the same footing as British Cochin. From Chellanam right up to Karupadanna all these tracts are of the same ground. The amount of money that has been spent by the British Government in investigation of water supply to Cochin,—

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Rather mis-spent.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—No, no, no.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I know. I was a Municipal Councillor. I put up a note, that is what I am saying. The dogmatic statement calls forth an answer. When I was a Municipal Councillor I put up a note and sent telegrams. They said they would not consider. So I say mis-spent.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—But all that you have to look to is the amount of honest effort made to investigate the question of good water supply to British Cochin, and yet the question remains unsolved. We have been looking forward ever since I came here. I have been struck with deficient and impure water supply of this tract, and we have been looking forward to the solution in British Cochin. The question has not been solved simply because the source of good water supply is not found, we do not know where there is good water supply. All the other problems that have been propounded by the Member for Jews for distilling and giving distilled water and impounding water coming from the rains and all that is impractical and out of the question.

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Mr. A. B. Salem.—May I know,—

Deputy President.—You have no right to speak now.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—May I know whether the Member knows the literature of the Cochin water supply ?

Deputy President.—You have no business to interrupt.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—The Member is making a statement, mis-statement.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—I only tried to enlighten the House on the practical difficulty of solving this question, that Sanitarians have actually tried and failed to find a source of good water supply. The whole difficulty consists in knowing where to get water supply. If the source is known, we could easily effect a solution or the solution is made very easy. Artesian wells are practically out of the question. At any rate the result of the investigation has shown that. Tube wells do not tap good water supply, and there are a few wells here and there even in these coast lands, which yield comparatively good water, and those wells are resorted to by people from the neighbouring places, especially in Kumbalanghi. People from Chellanam go to these places. One reason why there is not a good water supply in Chellanam, that very place which has been alluded to by the Member who brought the resolution, is the bunding of the canal, a canal which runs from north to south and that for purposes of cultivation is bunded completely. The water level rises right up to the surface and by percolation the neighbouring wells and tanks get mixed up with brackish water, especially so, during the hot season. I brought this to the notice of the Government, but because I was afraid that I would clash with the Agricultural Department so that they would not allow the bunds to be thrown open and allow the water to run. In the hot months the canal is bunded up for agricultural purposes. Anyhow I brought this to the notice of the Government that this is a means of vitiating water supply in the neighbourhood to a certain extent. Even if this canal is thrown open, I do not think we have solved the questionof good water supply. All that the Government can promise would be that we would still earnestly take into consideration this problem and see whether there is any practical means of having a general water supply. That is all that we can do. It is a solution which is very difficult. We stand on all fours with British Cochin and the amount of money, the amount of labour and the keenness with which the investigation is carried on, and the fact that they have not been able to finda good source would show how difficult it is of solution. Government is unable to give any promise as regards the solution of this problem. The most that I would say is that an investigation

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would be made if any improvement can be made in special localities.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Sir, The problem of water supply in the littoral tracts of the state is a difficult one. As my friend, the Member for Medicine, has already said in the Council, sufficient attention has been paid to this question by the British Sanitary Engineers. Their efforts were mainly directed to find water by means of deep artesian wells. This is the method which will probably claim the first attention of any prospector of water in these regions. The efforts, however, were not successful, and it seems to me to be wise to take their results for granted in our investigations. This will, therefore, take the consideration of artesian wells out of our programme.

The next possible alternative will be to collect rain water and store it in artificial tanks. I feel diffident to recommend this method as it strikes me that the water so stored is liable to get stale and unwholesome, considering the long period of about six months' storage has to be done.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—But water in wells ?

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—You cannot do it with rain water.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I consider that a comparatively small volume of water stored in artificial tanks is liable to become stale.

Water in wells is subject to subsoil flow. If we work on the hypothesis that wholesome water is not available locally, we come against the only solution, which is to take Alwaye water from the Distribution Mains of Mattancheri. This appears to me to be the only reasonable solution. The means of transport will be either by means of a pipe line or boats. As the extreme southern limit of Chellanam is about 12 miles from Mattancheri, both these means are bound to be expensive

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—The poor people will be benefited.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Further there is another difficulty. The population in these places are scattered over a tract of land about 12 miles long and one mile wide. This increases the difficulty for distribution. If the people would form villages and live there, distribution work would be much easier, but at present they live in huts scattered here and there.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—It will be very hard to distribute water.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Considering these difficulties, the number of people served by a certain amount of

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expenditure is comparatively small. I think, therefore, that some sort of town planning is necessary before we lay out a system of water supply to the people living in this area.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—Is there water even for Ernakulam, even for Mattancheri?

Deputy President.—Will there be any water? There is a deficit.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—That is why we are economising. The necessity for water for a large number of people is very large and we have to economise.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—Suppose water is diverted to Chellanam through Mattancheri?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Ernakulam people will have t go to Chellanam.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—That is a case of money. You cannot carry on this. When the Harbour develops, lakhs of rupees will be spent.

Deputy President.—Have you anything to reply? There are others to speak on it.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—There are some amendments.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—May I ask the Engineering Member whether he will kindly consider the question of distilling water because it was one of the suggestions made on sanitation by the Government of Madras?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—It is given up.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I know that.

Deputy President.—Mr. Ayyappan may move his amendment which runs thus:—"*Omit the words 'Chellanam, Andikadavu, Cheriyakadavu and Manacheri" and substitute the words 'the sea-shore villages of the Cochin-Kanayannur Taluk'*".

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. അയ്യപ്പൻ.—സർ, ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു മെംബർമാർ പറഞ്ഞ അഭിപ്രായത്തിൽ നിന്നും ഇതിനു് ഒരു തീരുമാനം ഉണ്ടാക്കാൻ ഉദ്ദേശമുള്ളതായി കാണുന്നില്ല. ചെല്ലാനം മുതലായ നാലു വില്ലേജുകളിൽ മാത്രമല്ല കടലോരങ്ങളിലുള്ള എല്ലാ വില്ലേജുകളിലും കടലോരങ്ങളിൽ ഒരിടത്തും ശുദ്ധജലം കിട്ടുന്നില്ല—ജലസൗകര്യം ഉണ്ടാക്കികൊടുക്കണമെന്നാണു് എന്റെ ഭേദഗതി. ചെല്ലാനത്തെയ്ക്കു വെള്ളം കൊടുക്കുന്നകാര്യം പ്രയാസമാണെന്നു് വിദഗ്ധന്മാർ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടപ്പോൾ കടലോരം സംബന്ധിച്ചു എല്ലാസ്ഥലത്തും ജലസൗകര്യം ഉണ്ടാകുന്നകാര്യം വലിയ പ്രയാസമായിട്ടു് പറയുമെന്നതിനു് സംശയമില്ല. വെള്ളത്തിന്റെ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടിനെപ്പറ്റി അറിഞ്ഞിട്ടില്ലാത്തവരായതുകൊണ്ടു് ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു് ഇതിനെപ്പറ്റി നല്ലവണ്ണം ആലോചിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. ഇറ്റിഷ്യു കൊച്ചിയെപ്പോലെ അല്ല ഇപ്പറഞ്ഞ

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സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ. ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് കൊച്ചിയിലെ വെള്ളത്തിന്നു ഉപ്പില്ല. അതു കുടിക്കാം. കുടിച്ചാൽ പിന്നീടു വല്ലരോഗവും വരുമെന്നുള്ളു. എന്നാൽ ഞാൻ ആവശ്യപ്പെടുന്ന സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലെ വെള്ളത്തിന്റെ സ്ഥിതി അങ്ങിനെയല്ല. അവിടങ്ങളിൽ വെള്ളം ഉപ്പു ആയതു കൊണ്ടു് കുടിക്കാൻതന്നെ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. അത്രവലിയ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടാണുള്ളതു്. ഈ സ്ഥലങ്ങൾക്കടുത്തു് കുളങ്ങൾ കുഴിക്കാൻ തക്ക സൗകര്യമുള്ള ഭാഗങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കും. ചെല്ലാനത്തെയ്ക്കു വേണ്ടി പള്ളുരുത്തിയിൽ ഒരു നല്ല വലിയകുളം കുഴിച്ചു് വെള്ളം പൈപ്പുകൾ വഴി അയയ്ക്കാൻ സാധിച്ചാൽ ജനങ്ങൾ ആ വെള്ളംകൊണ്ടു് തൃപ്തിപ്പെട്ടുകൊള്ളും. തീരെ ഉപ്പായ വെള്ളത്തേക്കാൾ ഉപ്പില്ലാത്ത വെള്ളം കിട്ടുന്നതു് അവർക്കു് ആലുവാവെള്ളം കിട്ടുന്നതുപോലെയിരിക്കും. ഇതിനെപ്പറ്റി ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടു് ആലോചിച്ചാൽ കൊള്ളാം.

ഞാൻ ഈ പറയുന്ന സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽനിന്നെല്ലാം ഉള്ള വരവിൽ കായ്മായൊന്നും അവിടത്തെ ജനങ്ങൾക്കുവേണ്ടി ചിലവാക്കുന്നില്ല. ഇവിടങ്ങളിൽ വരവു മറ്റു സ്ഥലങ്ങളേക്കാൾ കൂടുതലുമാണു്. അവിടത്തെക്കു അധികമുള്ളതിനാൽ കള്ളിൽ നിന്നുമുള്ള വരവു വളരെ അധികമാണു് (ചിരി). പക്ഷെ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടു് നേരിട്ടു അവിടെയൊന്നും ചിലവാക്കുന്നില്ല. ചെല്ലാനത്തു റോഡില്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. അരവിന്ദാക്ഷമേനോൻ.—ചിലസ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ ചിലവു ചെയ്യുന്നുമുണ്ടു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. അയ്യപ്പൻ—വളരെയൊന്നുമില്ല. റോഡു മുതലായ്തിന്നു വേണ്ടി പണംചിലവാക്കുന്നില്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. എം. കൃഷ്ണമേനോൻ—ചില്ലറച്ചിലവുകൾ ചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ടു്. വല്ലതായി ചിലവു ചെയ്യുന്നില്ലന്നേയുള്ളു. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഒന്നും ചെയ്യുന്നില്ലെന്നു പറയാൻ പാടില്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. അയ്യപ്പൻ.—ഒന്നും ചിലവുചെയ്യുന്നില്ലെന്നു പറഞ്ഞാൽ അതേഅർത്ഥത്തിൽതന്നെ നിങ്ങൾ വിചാരിക്കുമെന്നു ഞാൻ കരുതിയില്ല. കുറെ അലങ്കാരംകൂടി പറഞ്ഞില്ലെങ്കിൽ പിന്നെ എന്താണു്? അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടു് ന്യായങ്ങൾമാത്രം നോക്കാതെ നല്ലവെള്ളം ഇല്ലാതെ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുന്ന ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വെള്ളം കൊടുക്കുവാൻ വല്ല വഴിയും ഉണ്ടൊ എന്നു് അവരുടെ വിദ്വാഭിപ്രായം മുഴുവൻ പ്രയോഗിച്ചു് ആലോചിക്കണമെന്നു് അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടുംകൊണ്ടു് ഈ ഭേദഗതിയെ ഞാൻ ഹാജരാക്കുന്നു.

At this Stage the House rose for the day, it being 5 P. M.

T. K. KRISHNA MENON,
Secretary to the Council.

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